

House Republican Press Release

April 29, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Representative Urban to Present Statewide Microenterprise Exhibit



*State Capitol Event to Highlight Small Businesses
Throughout Connecticut*

Beginning Monday, May 2, State Rep. Diana Urban, R-North Stonington, will host a three-day educational/advocacy display on “The economic value of Microenterprise in the State of Connecticut”.

Rep. Urban is coordinating the event in conjunction with Microenterprise Resource Group (MERG) as part of ‘Small Business Month’ and the ‘Year of Microenterprise.’

MERG is a networking organization whose mission is to strengthen the resources for microenterprise in the State of Connecticut through cooperation, advocacy and education. The event will take place during the day at the concourse in the Legislative Office Building (LOB) May 2, 3 and 4, 2005.

In addition, there will be a reception held in the Hall of Flags at the Capital from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on May 4. Governor M. Jodi Rell, Comptroller Nancy Wyman, MERG, state legislators, business owners from every district and economic development professionals are expected to attend this event showcasing the products of the state’s microbusinesses and the inspirational people behind these successful small businesses who make up 53% of all registered businesses in Connecticut. Governor Rell and MERG will also present a recognition award to one of Connecticut most effective advocates for microenterprise.

Not only will the displays highlight statistics such as how many microenterprises exist in the state, how many people they employ, their contribution to the state in terms of tax revenues and the many exciting products they produce, but it will also recognize 21 specific business owners from around the State.

In 2003, Rep. Urban, a member of the Legislature’s Commerce Committee, established the Small Business Advocacy Task Force, which is designed to address issues for small businesses in Southeastern Connecticut. In 2004, she received the National Association of Women Business Owners’ (NAWBO) first annual Diana Urban Award (now named in perpetuity for her), in recognition her role in introducing and supporting legislation to benefit small businesses.

“There is no question that small business is the economic engine in Connecticut and microenterprise are such an important part of our small business community,” said Rep. Urban. “The increasing concern over outsourcing makes it imperative that we continue to support and encourage our microenterprises. MERG and Donna Wertenbach (CEO of the Community Economic Development Fund) exemplify that effort and I am proud to have them as partners.”